

Valley Wide HRC Conversational Exchange Meeting
November 8, 2004
Pinnacle Training Room
7575 East Main Street
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251
6:00 p.m.
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

City of Scottsdale

Velicia McMillan – Staff Liaison
John Tutelman
Ken Culver
Carol Padwe
Enid Seiden
Aubrey Strickstein
Theodore Tyler

City of Chandler

Leah Powell, Staff Liaison
Joel Munter

City of Gilbert

Mary Stone

City of Tempe

Rosa Inchausti, Staff Liaison
Gail Paredes-Ewen
Joel Navarro
Virginia Pesqueira

WELCOME

John Tutelman, Chair, City of Scottsdale Human Relations Commission, introduced the Mayor of Scottsdale, Mary Manross.

Mayor Manross thanked everyone for participating this evening and for all of the work they are doing in their communities. She reported that she has supported the Human Relations Commission since its inception. She further reported that

she has the Unity Walk on her calendar. She discussed the importance of a diverse community. She responded to questions and comments from the commissioners'.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Tutelman asked the commissioners' to go around the table, introduce themselves. All Attendees introduced themselves.

Mr. Tutelman requested the Commissions present information concerning current events and activities that are being sponsored.

City of Chandler

Mr. Munter reviewed the Chandler HRC current activities:

- 2005 Celebration of Unity
- Creative Expression Competition
- School Assembly and Luncheon with Juan Williams on January 14.
- 10th Annual Multicultural Festival
- Revision of Chandler Strategic Plan
- Establishment of four goals

Recently Completed:

- Hispanic Heritage Month Activities
- Poster contest, Photo Exhibit, Garibaldi Night, Mariachi Festival, Latino Film Celebration.
- Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Pageant

New Activities:

- Immigration Forum

City of Tempe

A representative for the City of Tempe reviewed the HRC activities:

Unity Grants funding – funding for diversity programs in schools.
MKL Diversity Awards Brunch
Regional Unity Walk
Discussing Day Labor issues
Community Conversation Program.
Researching idea of having a Diversity Award

It was noted the Hispanic Heritage activities went well.

Town of Gilbert

A representative of the Town of Gilbert reported that the Human Relations Commission and The Boys and Girls Club hosted the Town's first Hispanic Heritage Month.

- The commission is currently looking for new members.
- They are discussing a Holocaust Education program.
- Discussion on Dialogue Circles

City of Scottsdale

Mr. Tutelman reported the Hispanic Heritage activities went well. He reviewed Scottsdale HRC current activities:

- Promoting Unity in the Community Partnership Program
- SHRC/ADL Partnership
- Cross Cultural Communication Series
- MLK Dinner

REVIEW OF AUGUST MINUTES

Mr. Tutelman inquired if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. No changes or corrections were made.

SCHEDULE 2005-2006 VALLEY-WIDE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION CONVERSATIONAL EXCHANGE MEETINGS.

Dr. McMillan distributed a copy of the Regional Exchange of Human Relations Commission calendar. She reported the next exchange will be held in February and hosted by the City of Phoenix. She further reported that the City of Phoenix was unable to attend this meeting because it was in conflict with their monthly Commission meeting.

WALK AS ONE WALK-A-THON, NCCJ

Mr. Tutelman explained the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism in America. NCCJ promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions, and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution, and education. The

2004 5k Walk as One is scheduled for Sunday, November 21, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. at Kiwanis Park in Tempe. He discussed the idea of the Regional HRC participating in the Walk as one unit.

The consensus of the Commissioners was that it was a great idea but because the event is coming up in a short-time frame participation should be come if you can basis. It was suggested the Commissioners either wear a badge or a T-shirt to identify them as part of the group. The Commissioners discussed the logistics of the Walk. It was determined additional information on the fund raising aspect was needed.

REVIEW STATUS OF REGIONAL PSA

Mr. Tutelman reported the PSA was created to promote the mission of a Human Relations Commission, encourage citizen participation in events, and provide contact information for each Human Relations Commission in the Valley.

(The Commissioners' watched the PSA)

Dr. McMillan passed out a copy of the PSA to a representative for each of the cities.

The consensus of the Commissioners was that the PSA was well done and addressed all of the issues. A discussion ensued regarding how the PSA could be used:

- Broadcast on local City Cable channels at each city
- Investigate having a major TV network airing the PSA
- Put on each cities website
- Developing a Spanish version of the PSA
- ASU Channel 8
- Broadcast on ASU Channel 8

REVIEW STATUS OF REGIONAL UNITY WALK

Ms. Inchausti provided an update on the latest progress on the Unity Walk scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2005 convening at Tempe Town Lake. She reported the next planning meeting is scheduled for November 18th at the Tempe Library and everyone is welcome to attend.

REVIEW OF REGIONAL ISSUES: INTRA-COMMUNICATION PROCESS

Mr. Tutelman requested the Commissioners discuss various methods that can be utilized to communicate effectively between the various Commissions in ways, which are within the Arizona Open Meeting Law.

Dr. McMillan passed out a copy of the document that explains how the AzHRC list share works. Mr. Munter stated that he presented this idea to the Commissioners in 2002, explaining this list is to be used to discuss issues of interest to the various Human Relations Commissions. Mr. Tutelman suggested putting the Calendar of all Human Relations events on the list serve.

The Commissioners discussed how the list serve could be utilized in ways, which are within the Arizona Open Meeting Law. It was noted the list serve could be used to post information. It was noted the list serve could not be used to discuss issues.

The question was asked if as a regional group they could make a statement, for example, against Proposition 200. It was noted that as a group they cannot do anything to influence an election. It was also noted that it would be appropriate to raise awareness about issues. It was suggested that due to the fact that Proposition 200 was so poorly written that this issue should be brought up at the February meeting after the Court has presented an interpretation. It was also suggested that the group receive advice from legal counsel regarding what would be allowed on the list serve.

REVIEW OF REGIONAL ISSUES: DAY LABOR

Chair Tutelman requested the Commissioners discuss Day Labor and various ways that the issue is being addressed and/or can be addressed. He requested the Commissioners refer to the action steps created, during a HRC conversational Exchange in 2002, to address this issue.

Information was shared regarding the issues associated with day laborers. It was noted that although they are not breaking any laws business owners are calling the police because some of their female customers are scared thinking they might be harmed because of the day laborers are congregated in front of these business and some people feel intimidated that something criminal might occur.

It was noted that the City of Tempe has had discussions with the Town of Guadalupe regarding the Day Labor issue.

A representative from the City of Tempe shared with the group information they have gather regarding this issue. It was noted that Tempe has discussed opening a day labor center but there have been discussion regarding how

involved should the city get. It was noted one of the difficulties is that the day laborers are unorganized.

The comment was made that this is a human rights issue.
The comment was made that one of the problems is that the ordinances are not enforceable.

Mr. Munter reported the City of Chandler opened a day labor center 18 months ago and the problem is getting the contractors to use the facility. It was also reported that 90-day laborers use the center and are getting jobs. The big issue is gaining the contractors trust.

The consensus of the group was to appoint a subcommittee to further research this issue.

A motion was made to form a Regional Human Relations Commission subcommittee to research the day labor issues and bring back information at the next regional meeting.

Davida Schiffman Smith provided information on the right of citizens to peacefully assemble. She shared with the group her experiences of being a day labor employee.

The comment was made that when the City of Phoenix was discussing day labor one of the issues was safety because day laborers had been attacked. The comment was made that this is a racial issue of White people not feeling comfortable with another group of people. It was noted that the day laborers have a right to find work.

The comment was made that Scottsdale does not appear to have a day labor issue but the people they hire to do their yards etc. are probably day laborers.

It was noted that Arizona is Right to Work State.

Mr. Tutelman stated to wrap this conversation up the goal is for the subcommittee to develop an action plan.

EVALUATION AND GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Tutelman requested the Commissioners establish the agenda items for the next HRC conversational Exchange to be held at the City of Phoenix, February 2005.

The group laid out the agenda for the next meeting as follows:

- Report on Day Labor action plan
- Feedback on the PSA
- Discussion Proposition 200
- Advise from legal counsel regarding communicating between meetings.

It was suggested that perhaps there could be a way to share information on a statewide basis.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.